# Oswald Data Killed, FBI Man Discloses

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An FBI agent has told investigators that he was ordered to destroy records about Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963 some two hours after Oswald's death in the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination.

The disclosure was made before a House Judiciary subcommittee investigating fresh questions about the FBI's investigation of the assassination, including the disposition of a warning note Oswald had delivered to FBI offices in Dallas shortly before the President's murder.

FBI Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams said an exhaustive internal inquiry that has just been completed "leaves no doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald visited our Dallas field office prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and that he left a handwritten note there for the special agent who was conducting our subversive activities investigation of him."

According to the FBI receptionist who remembered Oswald and read the note he had left, it was addressed to FBI agent James P. Hosty and said in substance:

"Let this be a warning. I will blow up the FBI and the Dallas Police Department if you don't stop bothering my wife."

Adams told the subcommittee that Hosty's supervisor, Kenneth Howe, now with the FBI in San Diego, also recalled seeing the note and said "it contained some kind of threat but could not remember specifics."

Now stationed in Kansas City, agent Hosty, it was reported, "took no action other than to place it in his workbox — where it continued to reside on the day of the assassination." He had been investigating Oswald as "a possible Russian spy," Adams told reporters, and in the process interviewed Oswald's wife, Marina, briefly on Nov. 1, 1963, just 21 days before the assassination.

Recounting other results of the inquiry, which the FBI began in July on information supplied by The Dallas Times-Herald, Adams said Hosty — unlike the others — did not recall the note as particularly threatening. Instead, the subcommittee was told, Hosty said it simply complained about his "bothering" Mrs. Oswald and warned that this would be reported "to proper authorities" if it continued.

The subcommittee, headed by Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), heard this account:

After President Kennedy was killed on Nov. 22, 1963, and Oswald had been arrested, Hosty took part in an interview of the suspect at Dallas Police Headquarters and then returned to FBI offices for a conference with Gordon Shanklin, the special agent in charge, and with supervisor Howe.

Hosty was shown the Oswald note and asked for an explanation. Shanklin, Hosty told FBI investigators, then ordered him "to prepare a memorandum" about the note and about his Nov. 1 contacts with Mrs. Oswald and Ruth Paine, with whom Mrs. Oswald had been living.

Hosty said he compiled a three- or four-page memo and gave it to Shanklin the same evening. Two days later, on Nov. 24, 1963, Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby.

"Approximately two hours after Oswald had been pronounced dead," the subcommittee was told, Hosty said he was told by supervisor Howe that Shanklin wanted to see them.

"He (Hosty) claimed that upon arriving in the special agent in charge's office, he was instructed by the special agent in charge to destroy both the note and the memorandum regarding it ..."

Hosty told FBI investigators that he did as he was told. Supervisor Howe reported that "he had no knowledge of the disposition of the note."

As for Shanklin, who recently retired, the subcommittee was told, he "has denied having any knowledge of Oswald's visit to the Dallas office or of Oswald's leaving a note there. He maintains that he did not issue any orders to destroy the note. In fact, he claimed to have had no knowledge of this entire matter until July, 1975."

The results of the FBI investigation of the last three months, which included nearly 80 interviews, were

JAMES B. ADAMS
..."no doubt" of visit

recently turned over to the Justice Department, but Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler Jr. ruled Monday "that this is not an appropriate case for criminal prosecution at this time."